

Amateurs Asked To Record Signal Of Vanguard III

Washington, (Science Service)—An appeal to the nation's thousands of radio "hams" to record broadcasts from Vanguard III, which was placed in orbit Sept. 18, has been made by the National Academy of Sciences here.

Dr. Richard W. Porter of the space science board asked the American Radio Relay League to request members to record, where convenient and possible, radio signals transmitted from Vanguard III on a frequency of 108 megacycles. These tape recordings should be retained at least 48 hours.

In the event a solar flare occurs, the Academy will notify ARRL again, requesting that members send in their tapes made during that period. Notification should come within 48 hours.

To Catch Solar Flare
At a press conference held by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shortly after Vanguard III was put in orbit, Dr. Porter explained that help from radio "hams" was to be requested "in order to broaden the possibility of catching a solar flare at the right time, or catching certain parts of it that might not be caught by our Vanguard ground stations."

Dr. Porter is chairman of the Earth Satellite Technical Panel of the U.S.-International Geophysical Year program, under which the Vanguard III experiments were developed. He indicated scientists are particularly anxious to obtain tape recordings of transmissions that show effects of any solar flare that might occur when the satellite is below the Van Allen radiation belts.

Army Helping Ex-Sergeant To Find Gold Cache

Fort Huachuca, Ariz. (AP)—The Army is helping an illiterate, disabled ex-sergeant look for what he said was a cache of Spanish gold worth between \$2 and \$3 million. Robert Jones, 55, a Dallas, Tex. Negro, said he found 100 bars of gold "stacked like cordwood" and weighing 50 pounds each when he fell into a hole next to a cavern in 1941 while a recruit at Fort Huachuca.

In addition, a few boxes as big as wash tubs were filled with gold bullion, Jones claimed.

Might Be Right
The Army believed its former soldier might be right, and so did friends in Dallas who raised \$500 to finance his trip.

For two weeks, Col. Eldridge Bacon, inspector general of the post, has directed the search with a five-man crew, a power shovel, a well-drilling rig and pumps. The pumps have not been able to get water out of the diggings faster than it seeps in. Bedrock was hit at 23 1/2 feet.

But Eldridge was figuring out what kind of scientific equipment could be used to tell searchers if a cavern was under the bedrock, as Jones said it should be.

Jones said the cavern was covered by debris from a road building project. The site is three miles from fort headquarters.

Jones said the room was 32 feet below ground and had adobe-like walls. The gold must have been an old Spanish hoard and the government has promised him 60 per cent before taxes, Jones said.

He and a friend, killed in World War II, marked the location. But Army authorities did not believe their story. Before Jones had another chance to prove it, he was sent overseas.

War wounds suffered in the South Pacific kept Jones hospitalized much of the time for several years. And he did not have money to go to the fort until Dallas friends rallied.

'Black Bass Act' To Curb Illegal Practice

Washington (Science Service)—The growing practice by some groups of fishermen to net game fish unlawfully in one state and sell them to fee pond operators in another has now been halted. The U.S. Department of the Interior reports here that the recent amendment to the "Black Bass Act" will reinforce conservation officials' efforts to combat this illegal traffic. The new law covers also the buying, selling and possessing, as well as the transporting of the fish, and will thus greatly aid the states in protecting their fisheries resources.

Phony Diploma Mills Claimed Bilking Several Thousand Persons Each Year

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

It takes from three to five years of hard work to earn a Ph.D. degree at a reputable American university. But if you aren't too choosy about your alma mater, you can acquire a "doctorate" with far less trouble. All you have to do is mail a check to one of the numerous phony "colleges" and "institutes" that specialize in exchanging spurious academic prestige for real cash.

There are at least 200 of these diploma mills now functioning in the United States. They take in—the expression is used advisedly—about 750,000 "students" a year. Their gross income is estimated at \$75,000,000 annually, and it's nearly all clear profit since they aren't burdened with the expense of maintaining a faculty or a campus.

Racket Shrugged Off
This racket has been flourishing for many years, and only a few sporadic efforts have been made to stamp it out. Many educators who were aware of its existence have tended to shrug it off on the grounds that anyone foolish enough to buy a worthless degree should be allowed to go ahead and waste his money.

An abrupt change in this laissez-faire attitude is now brewing. The highly respected American Council on Education, an organization that is fairly awash with legitimate Ph.D.s, is girding to do battle against the purveyors of bogus degrees. The reason for the council's concern is made clear in a special report which it will make public in Washington soon.

Thousands Misled
The report discloses that America's mail-order degree factories are now going in big for international trade. Through glittering advertisements in foreign newspapers and magazines, they are misleading thousands of students in other countries into believing that they can get a bona-fide correspondence course education by scraping up enough dollars to "enroll" in the phony American schools.

Students in undeveloped countries, who attach high value to an American degree, are easy targets for this kind of fraud. So many of them have been bilked, the council says, that foreigners are beginning to "question the integrity and quality of all American education." Many U.S. officials abroad have reported the racket to the state department, warning that it is heavily damaging American prestige in countries where the United States

is eager to win friends. The report points out that it is difficult for the state department, or any other federal agency, to take effective action against the racket. Under the American system, control over educational institutions—real and phony—is a state and local responsibility.

Tough Licensing Laws
A few states, like New York, California, Arkansas and Virginia, have tough licensing laws which can be used to crack down on diploma mills. But a large majority of states have no effective legislation on the subject, according to the report, and "twenty-six states have no legal control whatever over educational institutions granting degrees."

To clean up the situation, the council says, the basic need is for nationwide adoption of uniform state legislation to set minimum standards for licensing and operation of all institutions of higher education, particularly those that grant degrees. The council of state governments has already indicated readiness to sponsor this effort.

The council also recommends that a congressional committee conduct full public hearings on the problem next year.

These hearings, it says, would serve two purposes: 1. They would point up the need for "supplementary federal legislation" to cope with interstate and international aspects of the bogus degree traffic.

2. They would "place on the record, with full congressional immunity, a large body of factual information about these 'colleges,' their names and locations, their proprietors and activities, and examples of the serious international implications of their operations."

Through this combination of public exposure and legislation, the council believes, "there is a real chance that American degree mills can be eliminated from the educational scene."

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